Volunteers associated with the Recreational Aviation Foundation and the International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians achieved substantial improvements to Bold Airstrip (A13), located at the southeast end of Eklutna Lake, near Anchorage, Alaska at a work party held Saturday, August 31, 2019. With the cooperation and approval of Chugach State Park officials, a small but intrepid band of aviators used a brush mower, weed whackers, chainsaws and hand tools to clear the airstrip of encroaching aspen and other brush. RAF State Liaison/IFFR Section Leader Al Clayton used his diesel powered GMC to tow a riding grader under the control of volunteer David Karalunas, to smooth and fill ruts in the gravel surface of the strip. The formidable grader was nicknamed “FuManChu, after the bull made famous by Tim McGraw’s song “Live Like You Were Dying,” even before it caught a snag and tossed David off into the gravel.

Alaska State Parks Director Kurt Hensel and Ranger Keith Wilson were instrumental in providing special permits to allow the equipment to move over the rugged access road to the strip on days normally closed to vehicles and providing the brush mower and grader in support of the work. Special thanks to the hardworking team of David and Pam Karalunas, Tim and Michele McLain, David Baldwin and Sam Warner for all of the hard work on the ground. Local pilots are expressing thanks for the “job well done” with comments like it “never looked better.”

Best regards, Al

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The Recreational Aviation Foundation preserves, maintains, and creates airstrips for recreational access.

Photographs on following pages.